

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1898

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV NI US RH SW
SUBJ: RHODESIA: SUGGESTION OF INCLUSION OF CARVER AND CHAND
IN GRAHAM-LOW DISCUSSIONS

REF: STATE 134813

1. I AM NOT CLEAR HOW SERIOUS THE PROPOSAL IS TO INCLUDE
CARVER AND PERHAPS CHAND IN THE GRAHAM-LOW MISSION.
WHILE THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THERE ARE SOME
DISADVANTAGES AND THERE ARE EVEN CLEARER PROBLEMS
RAISED BY THEIR JOINING US IN SALISBURY. THE DISADVANTAGES
APPEAR TO ME AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01898 291420Z

-- WITH REGARD TO SALISBURY, THE LARGER THE MISSION THE MORE
FORMAL AND THE MORE DIFFICULT IT IS TO REMAIN FOR AN EXTENDED
PERIOD IN SALISBURY, TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE AND TO ENGAGE IN
QUIET, FRANK DISCUSSIONS.

-- CHAND'S AND TO SOME DEGREE CARVER'S INCLUSION IN THE
SALISBURY VISIT GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SUBJECT UNDER
DISCUSSION IS THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL. AT LEAST INITIALLY

THIS WOULD COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE IN A DIALOGUE IN SALISBURY WHERE OUR FOCUS WILL HAVE TO BE ON THE ALL PARTIES MEETING.

-- IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY APPARENT IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS THAT CARVER'S INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL RESULTS IN LOSS OF PRESTIGE AND AUTHORITY FOR HIM. INEVITABLY HE BECOMES INVOLVED IN SOMETIMES ACRIMONIOUS DISCUSSIONS, ANTAGONIZING THOSE OVER WHOM HE MUST EVENTUALLY EXERCIZE AUTHORITY AND EXPOSING VIEWS WHICH MIGHT BETTER REMAIN PRIVATE. THIS PROBLEM IS CREATED IN BOTH THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PARTIES.

2. ON THE OTHER SIDE, OF COURSE, IT IS TRUE THAT THE CONTINUED EXCLUSION OF CARVER AND CHAND FROM THE DISCUSSIONS RAISES QUESTIONS IN THE MINDS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE FRONTLINE AS TO WHETHER WE ARE STRAYING FROM THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL.

3. MY OWN INCLINATION AT THIS POINT WOULD BE TO AVOID EXPANDING THE MISSION TO INCLUDE CARVER AND CHAND AT LEAST DURING ITS FIRST ROUND. AFTER THE INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE PF AND FIRST VISIT TO SALISBURY, WE MIGHT CONSIDER HAVING THEM JOIN US IN LUSAKA FOR CONTINUATION OF OUR TALKS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.
LOW

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